

Appendix B Fieldwork Itinerary, Community Contacts, and Activities

Introduction

The following is an abbreviated inventory and description of the field research conducted as part of the Gullah/Geechee SRS. This record follows Many of the design features as a Rapid Ethnographic Assessment (REAP), which is driven by a need for information in advance of actions that may affect a group or community's resources and thus its traditions. The assessment, which helps satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, serves the need to consider the views of various stakeholders. A REAP can yield new ways to manage places deemed important by group members, as well as information they wish to share with the public – knowledge of sacred sites and the like must remain confidential. The assessment is brief and narrow in scope; field methods include focus groups, interviews during site walks, and mapping.

The number of visits, the depth of community involvement, the extended length of time in the field, and the detailed information obtained through this study extend well beyond an ordinary REAP. There was repeated contact with community hosts and numerous visits to each community in order to build trusting relationships. For the sake of brevity, the following communities/areas will be considered here:

- St. Simons Island, Georgia
- Freedmen's Communities in or near Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

The following cities, towns, and communities were also visited during the course of this study, which included more than 200 days in the field.

Florida

American Beach
Fernandina Beach
Fort George Island
Jacksonville
St. Augustine

Georgia

Brunswick
Cumberland Island
Darien
Eulonia
Fort Stewart
Harris Neck
Harrington
Hinesville
Jewtown
Meridian
Midway
Richmond Hill

Sandfly

Savannah
St. Mary's
St. Simons Island
South End
Thunderbolt
Townsend
Tybee Island

North Carolina

Wilmington

South Carolina

Atlantic Beach
Awendaw
Beaufort
Charleston
Daufuskie Island
Edisto Island
Georgetown

Hilton Head Island

Hollywood
Huger
James Island
Johns Island
Little River
McClellanville
Mt. Pleasant
Pawley's Island
Phillips
Ridgeland
St. Helena Island
Sandy Island
Scanlonville
Six Mile
Seven Mile
Sullivan's Island
Ten Mile
Wadmalaw Island

St. Simons Island, Georgia

Note: Trips to St. Simons Island often included trips to other sites in the area such as Darien, Sapelo Island, Harris Neck, Brunswick. For the sake of brevity, these notes will be limited to St. Simons Island visits. All field trips included photographic documentation of sites in the area.

June 8, 2000

Community Host: Lighthouse Museum

Fieldworkers: Gullah/Geechee Special Resource Team, Vera Manigault

Sites Visited: Harrington School, Lighthouse Museum

Events attended: Community Meeting re SRS

September 19, 2000

Community Host: First African Baptist Church

Fieldworkers: Michael Allen, Cynthia Porcher, Vera Manigault

Events Attended: Community meeting to answer questions about project and generate interest. The audience was very interested in the project and began to discuss forming their own local organization for preservation of Gullah/Geechee culture. From this meeting the St. Simons African American Coalition (SSAAC) was born.

Events Attended: About 30 people gathered to discuss the project and what they might be able to do for themselves. Many goals expressed.

February 15, 2001

Community Host: Community meeting at Emanuel AME Church

Fieldworker: Cynthia Porcher

Events attended: Porcher made presentation on listing eligibility for National Trust for Historic Preservation. Spoke briefly about project.

July 17, 2001

Community Hosts: Amy Roberts, Karen Brown

Fieldworkers: Cynthia Porcher, Allyssa Lee, Jonna Hauser

Tours taken: Automobile tour of the 5 remaining African American neighborhoods on the island

Sites visited: Harrington School, Retreat Cemetery, Union Cemetery, First African Baptist Church, Savannah Ditch, Ibo Landing, Wing family home.

Events attended: Daycare programs for both elders and children at First African Baptist Church

July 18, 2001

Community Hosts: Amy Roberts, Karen Brown

Fieldworkers: Porcher, Lee, Hauser

Tours taken: Automobile tour of former African- American Neighborhoods

Sites visited: Union Cemetery, Hamilton Plantation Slave Cabins at Gascoigne Bluff, St. Ignatius Episcopal Church, 1950s- era daycare center on Demere Rd. in South End, Retreat Plantation slave cabin (now a gift shop), King family cemetery and Retreat Plantation ruins at Sea Island Golf Club (King family cemetery is surrounded by golf course), Emanuel Baptist Church, Willis Proctor's Store, barber shop, other abandoned African American businesses, site of Edgewood School.

Events attended: Vacation Bible School programs at Emanuel Baptist Church (Fieldworkers were invited to introduce themselves and tell congregation about the project.) There were about 100 people of all ages in attendance.

October 20, 2001

Community Hosts: St. Simons African-American Heritage Coalition (SSAAHC), Amy Roberts, Shirley Roberts, Karen Brown

Fieldworker: Cynthia Porcher

Events Attended: First Anniversary Celebration SSAAHC, First African Baptist Church (2 hours)

Casual Conversations: 12

October 21, 2001

Community Host: Amy Roberts

Fieldworkers: Cynthia Porcher, Vera Manigault

Tours taken: Met Amy Roberts early Sunday morning for tour of Harrington School site and to view effects of sewer coming to the neighborhood. Also visited baptismal sites (3 hours)

Other pertinent information: Porcher photographed schoolhouse extensively from many angles, also photographed the coming of sewer to neighborhood. All photographs made available to community for their preservation work.

April 10, 2002

Community Hosts: SSAAHC

Fieldworker: Cynthia Porcher

Events attended: General Meeting of SSAAHC – Porcher gave update on progress of study and made suggestions for community fundraising projects. At this meeting Porcher presented the preliminary alternatives to the group. Also attended meeting at First African Baptist Church to discuss preliminary alternatives and get input from community.

Other pertinent information: Porcher showed Power Point presentation of sites in and around St. Simons Island. Gave copy of presentation to SSAAHC.

June 12, 2002

Community Hosts: Emanuel Baptist Church, SSAAHC, Amy Roberts, Shirley Roberts

Fieldworkers: Cynthia Porcher and Jeannette Lee

Events Attended: Porcher showed Power Point presentation at a community meeting at the church (2 hours)

Tours: Porcher took Jeannette Lee to see important sites on the island and took more photographs (3 hours)

August 17- 18, 2002

Community Hosts: Georgia Sea Island Festival sponsored by SSAAHC to promote Gullah/Geechee culture and promote heritage tourism

Fieldworkers: Cynthia Porcher (Jeanne Cyriaque of GA DNR also present)

Formal Interviews: 4 females mid 50s basket makers, 1 male mid 40s photographer, 1 female about 40 producer of indigo dye, McIntosh County Shouters

Casual Conversations: 18

Events attended: Festival, native food preparation for sale, dancing (9 hours over 2 days)

October 21, 2002

Community Hosts: Emanuel Baptist Church, SSAAHC

Fieldworkers: Cynthia Porcher, Richard Sussman, John Barrett, Tony Paredes, Michael Allen, Vera Manigault

Events Attended: Community forum presentation of alternatives. Approximately 60 people attended this meeting. They came from Darien, Brunswick, Sapelo, Harris Neck, etc.

Freedmen's Communities near Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

Note: These communities are neighborhoods and/or extended family compounds. Many of the residents are kin to one another; many can trace their ancestry to those who started the community. Some of the communities are also connected to one another by family ties.

September 10, 2001, Phillips Community

Community Hosts: Phillips Neighborhood Association, Goodwill AME Church

Fieldworkers: Porcher, Adrienne Otto of Mt. Pleasant Docents also attended meeting

Events attended: Meeting of Phillips Neighborhood Association to discuss their options for saving the neighborhood from a road widening project. (2 hours)

Formal Interviews: Richard Habersham

Casual Conversations: 10

Other pertinent information: Porcher discussed methods of putting together documentation for Historic Neighborhood status. Group had already gathered maps and genealogical information and seemed ready and eager for its fight. Porcher agreed to meet with R Habersham to tour and photograph neighborhood and to make photographs available for use of Neighborhood Association

October 3, 2001, Phillips Community

Community Host: Richard Habersham, president of Phillips Neighborhood Association

Fieldworker: Porcher

Tours Taken: Automobile and walking tour of Phillips Community (3 to 4 hours)

Sites visited: Site of neighborhood schoolhouse, Parker Island Bridge, home of Elijah Ford, home of Rev. Henry Parker, tour of wooded site where praise house once stood

Formal Interviews: 1 male elder farmer and preacher, 1 male elder retired but making baskets, female elder retired who is mother of a U.S. Army General. All interviews lasted 20- 30 minutes.

Casual Conversations: 6

Other pertinent information: Porcher photographed important sites in community and interviewees

October 4, 2001, Phillips Community

Community Host: Richard Habersham

Fieldworker: Porcher

Tours Taken: Continued automobile and walking tour of the neighborhood (3 hours)

Sites visited: Brick wells, hand water pump, homes of several elders in the community, John Rutledge tomb

Other pertinent information: Porcher continued photographic inventory of community

October 17, 2001, Phillips Community

Community Host: Richard Habersham

Fieldworker: Porcher

Tours Taken: Auto and walking tour of former Phillips cemetery in Riverside Country Club. (3 hours)

Sites visited: Parker Island (now Riverside Country Club). Located cemetery with Confederate graves, noted that many gravestones were missing, Parker Island side of bridge from Phillips where base of bridge has been bulldozed

Other pertinent information: Porcher continued photographic inventory of community. Some photographs will be used by neighborhood association to document contamination of Horlbeck Creek by golf course run-off.

November 12, 2001, Phillips Community

Community Host: Phillips Neighborhood Association

Fieldworkers: Porcher, Alta Mae Marvin of SC Heritage Corridor also attended meeting

Events Attended: Meeting of Phillips Neighborhood Association, discussed possibility of agri-tourism and other heritage tourism options. (2 hours)

Casual conversations: 12

February 21, 2002, Six Mile and Hamlin Communities

Community Host: Jeannette Lee

Fieldworker: Porcher

Formal Interviews: 1 elder female basket maker, her daughter who also makes baskets

Casual conversations: 4

Tours Taken: Automobile and foot tour, approximately 3 hours

Other pertinent information: Porcher photographed Six Mile and Hamlin communities including cemetery on site of Hamlin plantation which contains both Hamlin family graves and slave graves

April 19, 2002, Six Mile, Ten Mile, Phillips Communities

Community Host: Goodwill AME Church, Sweetgrass Makers Association

Fieldworker: Porcher

Casual Conversations: 16

Formal Interview: Elder woman, basket maker

Other pertinent information: Porcher showed Power Point presentation and moderated discussion of project

May 2, 2002, Ten Mile Community

Community Host: Vera Manigault

Fieldworker: Porcher

Tours Taken: 2 hour automobile tour area of area

Formal Interviews: woman, mid 50s, retired welder now basket maker

Other pertinent information: photographed neighborhood

Sites: churches, houses, site of former praise house, school

June 7, 2002, Scanlonville Community

Community Host: Ed Lee

Formal Interview: Male, approx. 40, architect, active in neighborhood association

Tour: Automobile and foot tour of neighborhood (2 hours)

Other pertinent information: Porcher photographed sites in neighborhood; Ed Lee provided copy of archeological report prepared by Chicora Foundation in attempt to qualify for Historic Neighborhood status. (Group was unsuccessful).

Sites: Churches, vernacular homes, upscale gated communities, site of Riverside Beach (now public boat landing), location of former juke joint called White's Paradise, cemetery

